of the ſex; and, diſregarding the arbitrary economy of nature, one writer has declared that it is maſculine for a woman to be melancholy. She was created to be the toy of man, his rattle, and it muſt jingle in his ears whenever, diſmiſſing reaſon, he chooſes to be amuſed.

To recommend gentleneſs, indeed, on a broad baſis is ſtrictly philoſophical. A frail being ſhould labour to be gentle. But when forbearance confounds right and wrong, it ceaſes to be a virtue; and, however convenient it may be found in a companion—that companion will ever be conſidered as an inferior, and only inſpire a vapid tenderneſs, which eaſily degenerates into contempt. Still, if advice could really make a being gentle, whoſe natural diſpoſition admitted not of ſuch a fine poliſh, ſomething towards the advancement of order would be attained; but if, as might quickly be demonſtrated, only affectation be produced by this indiſcriminate counſel, which throws a ſtumbling-block in the way of gradual improvement, and true melioration of temper, the ſex is not much benefited by ſacrificing ſolid virtues to the attainment of ſuperficial graces, though for a few years

they may procure the individuals regal ſway.

As a philoſopher, I read with indignation the plauſible epithets which men uſe to ſoften their inſults; and, as a moraliſt, I aſk what is meant by ſuch heterogeneous aſſociations, as fair defects, amiable weakneſſes, &c.? If there is but one criterion of morals, but one archetype for man, women appear to be ſuſpended by deſtiny, according to the vulgar tale of Mahomet's coffin; they have neither the unerring inſtinct of brutes, nor are allowed to fix the eye of reaſon on a perfect model. They were made to be loved, and muſt not aim at reſpect, leſt they ſhould be hunted out of ſociety as maſculine.

But to view the ſubject in another point of view. Do paſſive indolent women make the beſt wives? Confining our diſcuſſion to the preſent moment of exiſtence, let us ſee how ſuch weak creatures perform their part? Do the women who, by the attainment of a few ſuperficial accompliſhments, have ſtrengthened the prevailing prejudice, merely contribute to the happineſs of their huſbands? Do they diſplay their charms merely to amuſe them? And have women, who have early imbibed